

RANDOM NOTES.

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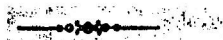
INDIAN AND BURMAN ORNITHOLOG

BY

VAGRANT.

EDITED BY

HARRY GREENWOOD.



BANGALORE :

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2ND BATTALION 10TH FOOT.

1868.

NOTES.

VULTUR MONACHUS. Linn.

Great Brown Vulture.

The finest vulture I ever killed was, I think, of this species, at Shuaygoen in Burmah. He was thickly covered with downy feathers, and must have had a tremendous flight, for he seemed quite exhausted. He had probably been blown from the northward by a storm.

NEOPHRON PERCNOPTERUS. Linn.

White Scavenger Vulture.

Once, while bear-shooting, I beheld a Rock-owl (*Urrua Bengalensis*), which I had just put up, knocked over into a prickly-pear bush by one of these foul birds, but, although the owl remained for many minutes lying on its back, and unable to move, no attempt at further molestation was made by its aggressor. I could easily have got the owl had I been so inclined, for it lay within a few feet of where I was posted.

FALCO PEREGRINUS. Gmelin.

Peregrine Falcon.

I have often seen them pursue and kill ducks and teal, but never snipe, as Jerdon mentions in his 'Birds of India' Vol. 1. P. 23.

HYPOTRIORCHIS CHIOQUERA. Daud.*Red-headed Merlin.*

They often hunt in couples, and in pursuit, one flies just above, and the other behind the quarry, so that it has hardly a chance of escape. I have seen them thus hawk at the small Kingfisher (*Alcedo Bengalensis*) about the fastest bird that we know of; I have also frequently known them to be puzzled by the extraordinary evolutions of the Indian Jay or Roller (*Coracias Indica*), as described by Jerdon 'Birds of India' Vol. 1. P.37.

NISAETUS BONELLI. Temm.*Crestless Hawk-Eagle.*

I have seen one carry off a full-sized Pin-tailed Duck (*Dafila acuta*) with the greatest ease.

LIMNAETUS CRISTATELLUS. Temm.*Crested Hawk-Eagle.*

I killed several specimens, both old and young, answering to Jerdon's description of this bird, whilst in Burmah; and I had a splendid living example of the female for some time at Tonghoo. She used to come and kill my fowls, so I shot her, had her cured, and she soon became very tame. She was fed on dead or wounded crows, and was, at last, poisoned by a stupid servant, who gave her a chicken that had died of disease. I have often seen birds like her chase, and once kill, jungle-fowl.

SPILORNIS CHEELA. Daud.*Crested Serpent-Eagle.*

I can, from personal observation, corroborate Mr. Blyth's statement, quoted in Jerdon's 'Birds of India' Vol. 1. P 79, that this species clutches frogs out of shallow tanks, in consequence of which habit, its toes are very often covered with mud.

POLIOAETUS ICHTHYAETUS. Horsf.*White-tailed Sea-Eagle,*

I think I have killed it on the Chilka Lake.

HALIETUS FULVIVENTER. Vieill.

Ring-tailed Sea-Eagle.

I have found it breeding on the rocky islands in the Chilka Lake in Orissa.

HALIETUS LEUCOGASTER. Gmel.

Grey-backed Sea-Eagle.

At Tonghoo, in Burmah, I killed a female of this species—which measured more than five feet from wing to wing—after she had, for an immense time, been struggling with and landing a fine Murrel about three feet in length. I saw part of the fight, but did not, at first, understand what it was. M—— kept one of these noble birds alive at Rangoon, in 1865, for several months.

CIRCUS SWAINSONII. A. Smith.

Pale Harrier.

This bird is often taken for a fox by 'griffins', when out with greyhounds. I have seen one chase a floriken (*Sypheotides Auritus*) and have frequently known them pick up a quail.

CIRCUS MELANOLEUCOS. Gmelin

Pied Harrier.

I have never seen it in India, but it is very common at Tonghoo, in upper Burmah, especially during the dry weather.

HALIASTUR INDUS. Bodd.

Maroon-backed Kite.

I have known it carry off young chickens; and, any day in Madras, it may be seen catching fish thrown up to it by pious Hindoos.

MILVUS GOVINDA. Sykes.

Common Pariah Kite.

I remember having seen one swoop down upon a dish in the middle of a large dinner-party, seated outside a dawk bungalow, and take off a chop in its claws.

They swarm in Burmah during the dry season, but leave at the first sign of the rains; and about the surest evidence of the close of the monsoon in the return of these birds and of the Hoopoes.

BAZA LOPHOTES. Cuv.

Crested Black Kite.

I have killed it in Goomsoor.

SYRNIUM SINENSE. Lath.

Mottled Wood-Owl.

I once succeeded in capturing a beautiful specimen of this bird unhurt, when it was being tremendously bullied by a lot of crows, and I kept it for a long time, feeding it on Bloodsuckers (*Calotes Versicolor*). I do not remember having heard its hoot. I subsequently possessed another splendid living example of this species, but my servants allowed it to escape, as they declared it would bring death; and, strange to say, poor B—— died in the house a few months afterwards—a blow to missionary labour as far as they were concerned.

URRUA BENGALENSIS. Franklin.

Rock Horned Owl.

I have often ridden these birds down, on a very ordinary horse, and taken them alive, or killed them with a stick. This feat may appear extraordinary to any one who has only observed them among the rocky hills they generally frequent; but most riding-men will recollect having flushed them from ravines and old quarries, in the open ground, while looking for a fox or jackal. On these occasions, let the bird be watched for his first flight of about half a mile to some similar resting-place, then put up and followed, slowly at starting, but with increased pace as he tires, for three or four flights more, when the poor wretch will become so confused and exhausted, that he will fall an easy prey to hand or riding-whip.

Let the captor, however, beware of beak and talon, for both are freely brought into play by the quarry, who, as he stands at bay with glaring eye, erect plumage, and extended wing, menacing his assailant, is an object startling to the nerves of any horse not accustomed, as are most Eastern hunters, to close with wild animals.

The chase is often shortened by crows, mynas, and other birds joining in it, and combining to mob and confuse the owl.

Ninox Scutellatus. Raffles.

Brown Hawk Owl.

Jerdon, in his 'Birds of India,' Vol. 1. P. 147, says that he has seen this bird, though nocturnal in its habits, come forth before dark and seat itself on the top of a small tree, whence it would make an upward soar in an oblique direction with a continued flapping of its wings, and then descend with outspread wings to the same perch. I also have observed this custom: the bird was, I think, feeding on white ants on the wing. If this species settles on a house during the day, it is supposed by Musulmen to foretell marriage, but if during the night, death.

Caprimulgus albonotatus. Tickell.

Large Bengal Night-Jar.

Found in Burmah.

Harpactes———?

———*Trogon.*

In some deep jungle about five miles from Rangoon, on the 22nd July 1865, I shot what I believe to be an unknown species of Trogon, of which I annex a description, viz:—

Length $21\frac{1}{2}$ inches; wing from shoulder to point $6\frac{1}{2}$ inches; tail very broad, $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches; bill $1\frac{1}{4}$ inch; tarsus 1 inch.

Head and nape dark ashy brown, deepening into dark rifle-green on back, scapulars and upper tail-coverts: wing, dark rifle-green with a brilliant metallic gloss; throat ashy grey deepening into a dull black towards chest, belly, and lower tail-coverts; bill

olive green, rather lighter at culmen, and towards the tip ; irides bright crimson with a large patch of bare skin of a beautiful crimson or blood color surrounding each eye, and extending from the upper mandible to the ear-coverts. Legs pale ashy green deepening into black at the feet ; lower tail-coverts greenish black ; the five longest feathers of the tail tipped with white. Nostril and base of bill partially concealed by bristles. Plumage very soft, skin very thin, and feathers coming out so readily that the specimen will be a difficult one to set up.*

The above description was written by H. A. Mangles Esq : of the Bengal Civil Service, Accountant General of British Burmah—who was with me when I shot the bird—and I can vouch for its perfect accuracy, as we subsequently carefully compared it with the specimen. Two days afterwards I saw another trogon, but with a much shorter tail, upon the same tree, which I supposed was the female of the one I had killed.

MEROPS VIRIDIS. Linn.

Common Indian Bee-eater.

I did not observe this bird at Bangalore until the 1st June : is it a monsoon visitant only ? This species, as well as *Merops Phillippensis* and *Merops quinticolor* breed in Burmah in June, July and August—perhaps earlier. Jerdon says (‘ Birds of India ’ Vol. 1. P. 205). “ It generally hunts, like the Fly-catchers, from a fixed station which may be the top-branch of a high tree or shrub, or hedge, a bare pole, a stalk of grain or grass, some old building, very commonly the telegraph-wires, or even a mound of earth on the plain.” Under these circumstances, shot after shot may be fired at it from a pellet-bow without disturbing it : the bird evidently mistakes the whirr of the pellet for the hum of some insect, and, as it passes him, he may be seen to turn

* The generic characters were well marked in this individual, especially the thin skin, soft plumage, broad tail, and the peculiarly formed feet, with the inner toes turned backwards.

his head eagerly in the direction of the sound, anticipating a capture.

CORACIAS AFFINIS. McLelland.

Burmese Roller.

Jerdon remarks (' Birds of India ' Vol. 1. P. 218) that this species is decidedly more wary and less familiar than *Coracias Indica* ; and so it is, wherever the Chinamen have a chance of getting them shot, to export their wings for fans ; but, in the military cantonment of Rangoon, they are the tamest and most familiar birds we have ; and are constantly in the porch of my verandah.

TODIRAMPHUS COLLARIS. Scop.

White Collared Kingfisher.

At the Chinese Joss-house in Rangoon, I have seen, at fewest, several hundreds of the skins of this species being prepared for exportation. It is said the Chinese pay as much as eight annas a bird for them, and the same for each skin of the Burmese Roller (*C. Affinis*), but I doubt it.

HOMRAIUS BICORNIS. Linn.

Great Hornbill.

From March to May these birds are continually passing over Tonghoo in Burmah, in small parties of five or six together, on their way to and from the rice-fields west of the old fort. They feed on the ground more in the manner of crows than hornbills, and may be shot by anyone who will wait for them morning and evening.* They are common in Gcomsoor.

LORICULUS VERNALIS. Spaarm.

Indian Lorikeet.

They are to be caught in scores at Shuaygheen, and perhaps

* I saw these birds day after day in the hot season of 1858 flying to and from the feeding-ground alluded to, at Tonghoo. Ed.

Rangoon, in Burmah, at the end of the cold season ; and I have seen them eating, and, to all appearance, perfectly contented within a few minutes after they had been taken. The process of securing them is very simple, and may be thus described :—a small cage containing a single bird is hoisted upon a tall bamboo, with two or three limes set above it, and the captive calls the wild ones as they pass by. I have often seen Burman boys catch four or five in almost as many minutes.

GECCINUS STRIOLATUS. Blyth.

Small Green Woodpecker.

Found in Burmah.

CHRYSOPHLEGMA CHLOROLOPHUS. Vieill.

Lesser Yellow Naped Woodpecker.

Found in Burmah.

MICROPTERNUS PHAIOPSIS. Blyth.

Bengal Rufous Woodpecker.

I have killed it in Goomsoor.

YUNX TORQUILLA. Linn.

Common Wryneck.

I saw one in Madras in June 1863.

MEGALAIMA LINEATA. Vieill.

Himalayan Green Barbet.

Found in Burmah.

XANTHOLÆMA INDICA. Lath.

Crimson-breasted Barbet.

In April last (1867), I counted either twelve or thirteen together in one tree in the compound of the Cubbon Hotel, at Bangalore. At that time they were calling in all directions, but, since then, I have rarely heard one. Query. Do they migrate,

or are they mute during the breeding season?

Jerdon says a pair bred in his garden at Saugor, in the cross-beam of a vinery, and I saw a similar case in Bellary.*

CUCULUS CANORUS. Linn.

European Cuckoo.

I have seen it at Goodum in the Golcondah Zemindary in April; at Saugor in June; and, I think, I once heard its note at Rangoon during the monsoon. At Russell-Condah, where I fancy it breeds, it is very common and frequently enters the gardens close to the houses. I have seen three, and, I think, four upon one occasion, together on the wing, all calling out in great excitement.

CHRYSOCOCCYX HODGSONI. Moore.

Emerald Cuckoo.

Common in the Karenee Hills north-east of Shuaygheen in Burmah.

CHRYSOCOCCYX XANTHORHYNCHOS. Horsf.

One was killed in August at Rangoon by Colonel Tickell's syce in his own stable: he had been trying in vain for years to get a specimen.

SITTA CASTANEOVENTRIS. Franklin.

Chesnut-bellied Nuthatch.

Found in Burmah.

DENDROPHILA FRONTALIS. Horsf.

Velvet-fronted Blue Nuthatch.

A Burmese variety has black legs.

UPUPA NIGRIPENNIS. Gould.

Indian Hoopoe.

Jerdon says (' Birds of India ' Vol. 1. P. 393) that this bird

* I also observed an instance of the same at Bangalore in 1866. Ed.

is a permanent resident in Burmah ; and such may be the case up the Irrawaddi, where the monsoon is less violent than at Rangoon or Tonghoo ; but, in those two places, the hoopoes, though abounding in the dry season, are never to be seen during the rains. In fact the appearance of the first one in November is held by the natives to be a certain sign that the wet weather has ceased. I must, however, acknowledge that I saw one at Promé on the 16th of August.

LANIUS NIGRICEPS. Franklin

Black-headed Shrike.

Found in Burmah.

PERICROCOTUS PEREGRINUS. Linn.

Small Minivet.

Common in Rangoon.

DICRURUS MACROCERCUS. Vieillot.

Common Drongo Shrike.

I saw one settle upon the back of a Cattle Egret (*Buphus Coromandus*) which was feeding upon the ground, and strike it violently on the head with its bill. He repeated the assault several times—the only reason for which that I could imagine was that the egret had probably swallowed some worm or large insect upon which the king-crow had set his heart.

CHIBIA HOTTENTOTA. Linn.

Hair-crested Drongo.

Found in Burmah.

TCHITREA PARADISI. Linn.

I killed one of these birds in adult plumage at Goomsoor with the central tail-feathers eighteen inches in length.

CYORNIS BANYUMAS. Horsf.

Horsfield's Blue Redbreast.

I have seen it near Hyderabad in the Deccan.

PETROCOSEYPHUS CYANEUS. Linn.

Blue Rock Thrush.

This is the tamest and most confiding bird I have ever seen : it not only frequently enters the verandahs, but the inner rooms of houses, and is almost startling in its noiseless and *uncanny* familiarity. Whilst at Tonghoo, in Burmah, I had, every season, one or two of them about my residence, so fearless, that they might almost have been handled. I saw one, in my verandah at Rangoon, kill and swallow a large scorpion.

TURDULUS WARDII. Jerdon.

Ward's Pied Blackbird.

I believe that Colonel Orr of the Royal Engineers and I saw this bird in Pater's gardens at Madras. Many rare birds are to be found near the Presidency city. They are less molested there than in most jungles, and have almost as much cover of one kind or another.

HYPsipETES NEILGHERRIENSIS Jerdon.

Neilgherry Black Bulbul.

Found also in Burmah. I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

OTOCOMPSA JOCOSA. Linn.

Red-whiskered Bulbul.

This bird is said to do a great deal of mischief in gardens by pecking at the flowers of cucumbers, vegetable marrow, peas, etc., while the young fruit is forming : he is probably looking for an insect at the time, and, if so, does more good than evil to the gardener by saving half-a-dozen fruit for every one he destroys.

I killed an albino of this species at Tonghoo in Burmah. Skin

diseases appear to be common in that country among men, ponies, dogs, elephants and oxen, owing probably to the damp climate affecting the action of the pores; and it would be interesting to know if birds, also, are subject to similar complaints, from the same cause. Besides the instance I have adduced, I saw, while in Burmah, albino specimens of *Passer montanus*, *Corvus splendens*, and *Eulabes intermedia*. The last was a very handsome bird, and was, for a long time,* and probably still is to be seen in China Street, Rangoon.

ORIOLOUS KUNDUO. Sykes.

Indian Oriole.

In 'Bailey's Dictionary' Lorient (the French name of the oriole) is said to be "a bird that being looked upon by one that has the yellow jaundice, cures the person and dies himself."

ORIOLOUS TRAILLII. Vigors.

Maronne Oriole.

Found in Burmah. I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

COPSYCHUS SAULARIS. Linn.

Magpie Robin.

Just at daylight in the morning, as well as towards evening, it may be heard singing from the top of some tree or other elevated point, as remarked by Jerdon.

PRATINCOLA INDICA. Blyth.

Indian Bush-chat.

Pratincola rubicola of Tickell. Very common in Burmah, and abundant near Rangoon.

RHODOPHILA MELANOLEUCA. Jerdon.

Black and white Bush-chat

I have found it at Tonghoo in Elephant grass.

* Throughout the whole of 1866.

CALLIOPE KAMTSCHATKENSIS. Gmelin.

Common Ruby-throat.

Found in Burmah. I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

CYANEULA SUECICA. Linn.

Indian Blue-throat.

I got it in the Deccan.

ACROCEPHALUS BRUNNESCENS. Jerdon.

Large Reed-warbler.

Found in Burmah.

PHYLLOSCOPUS AFFINIS. Tickell.

Tickell's Tree-warbler.

I got it in Burmah, and sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

MOTACILLA BUKHUNENSIS. Sykes.

Black-faced Wagtail.

Found in Burmah. Comes to Rangoon about the beginning of November. They appear to get together towards evening as mentioned by Jerdon—any evening during the cold season scores of them may be seen going to roost in the reeds of the pond in the deer-paddock of the People's Park at Madras.

PIPASTES ARBOREUS. Bechstein.

European Tree-Pipit.

Found in Burmah. I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

CORVUS CULMINATUS. Sykes.

Indian Corby.

I could not find it at Waltair or Vizagapatam; and it is scarce at Rangoon—not coming often nearer to the station than Kem-online. Those that I have seen at Bangalore appeared to be less in size than usual, and the peculiar shape of the beak was apparently more strongly marked.

CORVUS SPLENDENS. Vieillot.

Common Indian Crow.

Elliott tells me that this bird is not to be found in Western Mysore,* but adds that it will probably soon come there, following the progress of civilization, as a pair of them have been seen at a plantation on the skirts of the neighbouring jungles. I could not find it at Ootacamund in December and January, although the Carrion Crow (*Corvus culminatus*) is very common there.

It is interesting to watch these birds at Rangoon when a storm is coming on. Up to the last moment they appear to be intent on foraging: then, just before the storm bursts, the air is alive with thousands of them flying in all directions, but each one going direct as a bullet to his own tree or clump of bamboos. I have often timed my taking shelter from a shower coming on by watching their movements.

Common and familiar as this bird is—living almost more *in* our houses than *near* them—the act of coition has never—so say the natives of Burmah and, I believe, of many parts of India—been observed; and, certainly, for more than twenty years, since I first heard the statement, I have carefully watched for an opportunity of refuting it without success. I fancy that, just at dawn, one morning, while riding past a thick plaintain-garden, I saw a pair of crows in the act; but, I am not certain of the matter, and I have never met with any one who could own to having seen even so much. I have not a copy of the book referred to, so what I quote is from memory, but, in the ‘Laws of Menu,’ (the origin of all Bhoo-list and Hindoo notions) it is set forth that ‘a good wife should be like a crow’ *i. e.* that she should not allow any conjugal endearments or familiarities before spectators.

The Burmese representatives of this species are much darker than those in India, but, Tickell remarks that such is the case

* Mungerabad.

with the Burmese varieties of many birds that are found in both countries; for instance, I can think of the Burmese Paradise Flycatcher, (*Tchitrea affinis*); the Burmese Roller (*Coracias affinis*); the Burmese Pea-fowl (*Pavo muticus*); and the Burmese variety of the Red Jungle Fowl (*Gallus Ferrugineus*, or rather *G. Bankiva*) which has the ear-coverts red instead of white, as in the Indian bird, and perhaps others.

Wide awake as the crow is during the day, he is, when he has once gone to roost, a most stupid and difficult bird to rouse. I have almost pushed them one by one from their perches, in low trees, very shortly after sunset.

UROCISSA SINENSIS. Linn.

Red-billed Blue Magpie.

I have a note that I found this beautiful bird near Rangoon; it must, however, have been *Urocissa Magnirostris*, mentioned in Jerdon's 'Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 311.

DENDROCITTA RUFA. Scopoli.

Common Indian Magpie.

I have seen it at Madras; and it is common enough in Rangoon.

STURNOPASTOR CONTRA. Linn.

Pied Starling.

Both in India and Rangoon I have found it breeding in the verandahs of houses.

ACRIDOTHERES TRISTIS.

Common Myna.

The Rangoon specimens of this bird struck me as being darker than those of India. It is a very quarrelsome bird; three or four of them may often be seen clustered together into a living ball, assaulting each other with great fury, and apparently most indiscriminately. At Rangoon, I saw two males fight until one was

so exhausted, that I took him up in my hand. The other was in hardly better plight, but flew off in company with a female, who was doubtless, (as is often the case with man) the origin of the battle, which she watched throughout with great interest, but with most amusing calmness.

ACRIDOTHERES GINGINIANUS. Latham.

Bank-Myna.

Why not Ganga-maina from the river Gunga, where it breeds?

TEMENUCHUS ERYTHROPYGIA. Blyth.

I think that I found this bird on the Andaman Islands.

PLOCEUS BAYA. Blyth.

Common Weaver-bird.

I lived in the house at Rangoon that Jerdon refers to in his account of this bird (‘Birds of India’ Vol. 2. P. 345.) during the years of 1864, and 1865; but the bayas all left it, as soon as the roof was tiled. I am, with Jerdon, inclined to doubt the generally accepted fact of the cock-bird constructing a nest, different to that of the female, for his own especial use; but both kinds are often seen together in pairs, and, if the male does not have the house built for himself, he certainly occupies it. For a long time I fully believed that the cock-bird always inhabited a separate chamber, but now think that the unfinished are rejected, though why I have never been able to discover. Sometimes, perhaps, because the materials have been disturbed by their next neighbours; perhaps because a crow, after his inquisitive fashion, has examined it, and so made the female dislike it. They never employ old nests; and the very first thing they do, on resuming their usual quarters for the breeding season, is to pull down the dwellings of the previous year, although they are apparently in perfect order. They are incorrigible little thieves, and will steal the building materials from each other’s unfinished nests in the most unscrupulous way.

Jerdon’s account of their nidification, in the note already quo-

ted, is most excellent, and I can, from personal observation, taken through the blinds of a Venetian shutter, within a few inches of where their nests were suspended from the thatch of a Rangoon bungalow, corroborate his statements. The artillery practice and other feats, which he refers to, may now (December 1867) be seen any day in Madras.

The following extract from Dr. John Fryer's account of Bombaim and India, regarding these interesting little birds, is worthy of preservation.

"In the meanwhile Nature affords us a pleasant Spectacle for this Season, as well as Matter for Admiration ; whereby I know not why we should deny Reason wholly to Animals : unless it be, Man having so much, they seem comparatively to have none. For here is a Bird (having its name from the Tree it chuses for its Sanctuary, the Toddy Tree) that is not only exquisitely curious in the artificial Composure of its Nest with Hay, but furnished with Devices and Stratagems to secure itself and young ones from its deadly Enemy the Squirrel : as likewise from the Injury of the Weather ; which being unable to oppose, it eludes with this Artifice, Contrives the Nest like a Steeple-hive, with winding Meanders ; before which hangs a Penthouse for the Rain to pass, tying it by so slender a Thread to the Bough of the Tree that the Squirrel dare not venture his Body, though his Mouth water at the Eggs and Prey within, yet it is strong enough to bear the hanging habitation of the Ingenious Contriver, free from all the Assaults of its Antagonist, and all the Accidents of Gusts and Storms : Hundreds of these Pendulous Nests may be seen on these Trees.

Here is another Tree called Brabb,* bodied like a Cocoe, but the Leaves grow round like a Peacock's Tail set upright, of the same substance with the Cocoe, only varying in figure ; the Fruit

* Brabb is a seaman's term for the Palamyra Palm, whence derived I know not. V.

of this is less than the Cocoe, and filled with Gelly; the Wine from this is preferred new, before the other, there is a Tuft at top cut off and boil'd eats like Colliflowers: on which Tree these Birds build also."

PLOCEUS BENGALENSIS. Linn.

Black-throated Weaver Bird.

Abundant at Rangoon.

MUNIA RUBRONIGRA. Hodgs.

Chesnut-bellied Munia.

These birds are in hundreds at Tonghoo.

MUNIA UNDULATA. Lath.

Spotted Munia.

Somewhat rare; but, in Rangoon, it may not unfrequently be seen feeding near, but not in company with, *Passer Montanus*. I have found the nest in the thatch of a house, and in a small tree close to my verandah, in Rangoon.

MUNIA MALABARICA. Linn.

Plain Brown Munia.

At Madras, some young birds were brought to me in November 1866.

PASSER CINNAMOMEUS. Gould.

Cinnamon-headed Sparrow.

Found in Burmah. I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

PASSER MONTANUS. Linn.

Mountain Sparrow.

One had its nest in a bison's skull in Colonel Phayre's verandah at Rangoon. Another pair would insist upon having their nest in one of my hats, which was left on a stand, off which several other hats were constantly being taken, and they held to their

objectionable site with such obstinacy, that I had to lock up the article.

EUSPIZA AUREOLA. Pallas.

Brown-headed Bunting.

The 'Yellow Sparrow' is common at Shuayghcen in Burmah, and is called by the Burmans the 'Paddy Sparrow.' I sent a specimen to the Madras Museum.

MELOPHUS MELANICTERUS. Gmelin.

Crested Black Bunting.

To be found in Burmah. I see that I sent a specimen from that country to the Madras Museum.

CALANDRELLA BRACHYDACTYLA. Temm.

Short-toed or Social Lark.

Jerdon says ('Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 427.) that he once bagged twelve dozen of these birds after a discharge of both barrels of his gun, and that many wounded ones escaped. Does not he mean two dozen? I got twenty-seven or twenty-nine—I forget which—in a double shot at Nagode, in Central India, but a *hundred and forty four* appears to me to be an error.

ALAUDA GULGULA. Franklin.

Indian Sky-lark.

It soars quite out of sight, and may be heard long before it comes low enough to be seen. Jerdon says ('Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 435) that comparatively few residents in India are aware that a sky-lark is common in almost every part of India, and when they go to a hill station, observe this bird, perhaps for the first time, with equal surprise and delight. This is very true. I have known people rave about the larks on the hills, who were not aware that they may be heard every day in the plains, and even on the parade-ground on the Island at Madras.

OSMOTRERON BICINCTA. Jerdon.

Orange-breasted Green Pigeon.

This bird swarms in Upper Pegu, Shuayghcen, and Tonghoo: it always appeared to me to be much more wary and difficult to get at than *Crocopus Chlorigaster*.

CARPOPHAGA SYLVATICA. Tickell.

Green Imperial Pigeon.

I found a nest at Russelcondah, in Goomsoor, and watched it until the young birds, two in number, left it: one or two (young ones) were afterwards brought in by shikarees, but we could not rear them.

CHALCOPHAPS INDICUS. Linn.

Bronze-winged Dove.

Common as it is, and beautiful withal, few birds are so little known, even to good sportsmen. I saw one close to Coonoor, 5886 feet above the level of the sea; and I have found it more abundantly at Russelcondah than in any other place where I have been.

Chalcophaps Chrysochlora, a native of Australia, a specimen of which, from the Sydney Museum, is in the Madras collection, very much resembles this, but *C. Indicus* is distinguished by a white forehead in the male, and a greyish white one in the female.

PAVO CRISTATUS. Linn.

Common Peacock.

Jerdon expresses his belief that various nearly affined species will propagate, *inter se*, and produce fertile offspring—and I have seen a splendid specimen of a cross between the blue and green necked Pea-fowl of India and Burmah, (*Pavo Cristatus et muticus* of Linnæus), which was pointed out to me by Blyth in the collection of a rich native in Calcutta.

GALLOPERDIX SPADICEUS. Gmelin.

Red Spur-fowl.

I have shot it about the foot of the Ramandroog Hills near Bellary.

GALLOPERDIX LUNULOSUS. Valenc.

Painted Spur Fowl.

I have killed it near Kemedi, south of Goomsoor.

EUPODOTUS EDWARDSII. Gray.

Indian Bustard.

I have counted twelve together at Raidroog, near Bellary. "When raised," as Jerdon remarks (*'Birds of India'* Vol. 2. P. 610) "it generally takes a long flight, sometimes three or four miles, with a steady, continued flapping of its wings, at no great height above the ground; and, under these circumstances, it is often, by young sportsmen, taken for a vulture, which bird, were it not for the peculiar motion of the wings, during these flights, it very much resembles.

A laughable incident once occurred to me in connection with this bird, in the Bellary district. I had, with a long shot, broken the tip of one of the wings of an immense cock, which, however, although unable to rise from the ground, could, with his long legs, his unwounded wing, and nearly the whole power of the other, make such play over the cotton-fields, that I had to get on my horse to close with him; a very short gallop enabled me to do this, but when I got up, the bird, ruffling every feather like an excited turkey-cock, and uttering his peculiar "houk," or grunting cry, so alarmed the brute I rode (a country-bred, of more activity than courage) that I could not, for some moments, get near enough to knock the poor bustard over with the butt of my spear. The sight must have been a ludicrous one; and bird, horse, and rider, fit subjects for caricature.

HYPEROTIDES AURITUS. Lath.

Lesser Florikin.

Why should the female florikin—a bustard to all intents—be larger than the male?

GRUS ANTIGONE. Linn.

Sarus Crane.

It makes very good soup, and a cutlet, from the breast of a young bird, is, by no means, to be despised.

GALLINAGO NEMORICOLA. Hodgs.

Wood or Solitary Snipe.

I saw one that was killed at Rangoon in 1865; and I have shot it at Russellcondah, in Goomsoor.

GALLINAGO STENURA. Temm.

Pin-tailed Snipe.

The following extract, from the pen of "*Smooth-Bore*," Madras, appeared in *The Field* of the 24th November 1866, and is well worth preserving. "The common and pin-tailed snipe are found in the same fields, cry in the same way, when flushed, and look the same when killed; yet there is a great difference between them if you examine them closely. The common snipe is white under the wing, with a few indistinct and irregular brown marks, and the feathers of the tail are soft. Then pin-tailed snipe has the under wing-coverts richly and regularly barred, and the lateral tail-feathers sharp, stiff and pointed."

GALLINAGO SCOLOPACINUS. Bon.

Common Snipe.

Jerdon says ('Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 675.) that sixty or seventy brace of these birds is no very uncommon bag for a first-rate shot in some parts of the country. I do not know many authentic cases of more than thirty couple to one gun. Twenty-six and a half was the best bag I ever made, though I ought to have

killed more, for I picked up a hundred and forty-one birds off the same bit of ground in three afternoons, in three lots of forty, fifty, and fifty-three respectively.

At Russellcondah, I found the nest of a snipe with four full-fledged young in it, in the marsh between the cantonment and the Nowgong plain. I am inclined to think that a few breed in the Fort ditch at Tonghoo, in Burmah.

GALLINAGO GALLINULA. Linn.

Jack Snipe.

I once, in Saugor, and once, in Kenedy, killed six couple of Jacks out of my ordinary bag. I never heard of the bird being found in Burmah: even Tickell had not met with it there.

RHYNCHÆA BENGALENSIS. Linn.*

Painted Snipe.

Although, as Jerdon says, ('Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 678) the Painted Snipe flies heavily, and but a short distance, no bird is so often missed. I believe that it breeds in Burmah.

MACRORHAMPHUS SEMIPALMATUS. Jerdon.

Snipe-billed Godwit.

I have killed it in January near Rangoon, feeding close to the Whimbrel (*Numenia phaeopus*) and the Stilt (*Himantopus candidus*).

RECURVIROSTRA AVOCETTA. Linn.

Avoset.

I have found it near Gooty, in the Ceded Districts; and at the Chilka Lake.

EURYZONA CANNINGI. Tytler.

Banded Rail.

Lieutenant A. McGoun sent me a beautiful specimen from

* This species is now generally admitted to be identical with that from the Cape of Good Hope (*R. Capensis*); but the birds which

Port Blair, in the Andamans. I forwarded it to the Madras Museum, but it was, I think, lost *en route*.

LEPTOPTILOS ARGALA. Linn.

Gigantic Stork

I found some Adjutants breeding on large trees, on a rocky island, in the Chilka Lake, near Pelicans, and a couple of Sea-Eagles.

MYCTERIA AUSTRALIS. Shaw.

Black-necked Stork.

Very common in Burmah, but very difficult to get at.*

ARDEA GOLIATH. Temm.

Giant Heron.

I have killed it on the Sitang River, near Kyat Zoo.

HERODIAS ALBA. Linn.

Large Egret.

This, and the smaller Egret (*H. Egrettoides*), are to be found in thousands at Rangoon.

ARDEOLA LEUCOPTERA. Bodd.

Pond Heron or Paddy-bird.

At Madras, in January 1867, I saw one of these birds capture an insect in the air, leaving his perch on a tree and returning, much as a bee-eater would do.

ARDETTA CINNAMOMEA. Gmelin.

Chestnut Bittern.

Excellent eating.†

I saw in South Africa appeared to me to be larger, and certainly brighter in plumage, than any I have met with in either India or Burmah. Ed.

* Near Kya Zoo, in Burmah, in 1859, I succeeded in getting within twenty yards of a pair of these birds, but I had no gun with me. Ed.

† I can corroborate this statement from personal experience. Ed.

BOTAURUS STELLARIS. Linn.

Bittern.

I have killed it near Saugur; and one was said to have been obtained close to Bangalore in April 1867.

NYCTICORAX GRISEUS. Linn.

Night-Heron.

Common in Madras, and in Rangoon, during the dry season, where, however, it is but little known to most men. I have often seen it on the wing during the day, but only in consequence, I think, of its roosting-place having been disturbed.

TANTALUS LEUCOCEPHALUS. Gmelin.

Pelican-Ibis.

I have found it breeding in the North Circars, near Chicacole, I think, but I forget the exact place.

THRESKIORNIS MELANOCEPHALUS. Linn.

White Ibis.

For an amusing account of the habits of this bird, and the valuable discovery therefrom, *vide* old Bailey's *Dictionary*, as also Fryer's *Travels in the East*.

PHŒNICOPTERUS ROSEUS. Pallas.

Flamingo.

They swim like swans, and are most difficult of approach; no bird that I know of is more so. They are very common in the Ceded Districts, near Bellary. I think I have seen them sleeping on the water. Jerdon, in his *Catalogue*, published in 1839, says: "I think Swainson is perfectly justified in placing this bird amongst the ducks, from its external structure alone, and I see that its internal anatomy fully confirms this view. In fact, the natives of India recognize its alliance with this family, by calling it 'Heron Goose,' or 'King Goose.'"

ANSER CINEREUS. Meyer.

Grey Goose.

I have killed it in the Ceded Districts, near the foot of the Ramandroog Hills.

ANSER INDICUS. Gmelin.

Barred-headed Goose.

Common in the North Circars, and the Chilka Lake, especially during the cold season. It is said to be found in Mysore, but I have never come across it there. I think I have seen it in the Ceded Districts.

NETTAPUS COROMANDELIANUS. Gmelin.

White-bodied Goose-teal.

I have seen a pair, on more occasions than one, fly off a tree, where they had a nest.

DENDROCYGNA AWSUREA. Sykes.

Whistling-teal.

M—— found a nest with, I think, fourteen eggs in it, in some grass near Rangoon.

CASARCA RUTILA. Pallas.

Ruddy Sheldrake.

It is the 'Henza' of the Burmese pagoda, although the representation is generally much more like that of a cock.

ANAS CARYOPHYLLACEA. Latham.

Pink-headed Duck.

I have never seen it in Burmah. Jerdon says ('Birds of India' Vol. 2. P. 801.) that it shows a decided preference for tanks and jheels well-sheltered by overhanging bushes, or abounding in dense reeds; and, in just such a tank, I have shot it about twenty miles from Secunderabad. I forget the date, but it was after the rains had set in.

MARECA PENELOPE. Linn.

Wigeon.

More common in Burmah than in India.

BRANTA RUFINA. Pallas.

Red-crested Pochard.

I have shot it in the Northern Circars; and it is to be seen, but not easily got at, in most of the large Tumparaos, or backwaters, from Chicacole to the Northward.

AYTHYA FERINA. Linn.

Red-headed Pochard.

I have killed this species in the North Circars.

FULIGULA MARILA. Linn.

Scaup Pochard.

I saw, but could not bag, several ducks of this description (or very like it) in January, on the marshes and salt lakes between Chicacole and Berhampore, in the Northern Circars.

KROIKOCEPHALUS ICHTHYÆTUS. Pallas.

Great Black-headed Gull.

I shot one of these fine birds on the Chilka Lake, while it was trying to kill a wounded Pin-tail (*Dafila acuta*), which I had just knocked over.

PELECANUS PHILIPPENSIS. Gmelin.

Grey Pelican.

Jerdon says (' Birds of India ' Vol. 2. P. 860.) " I have visited one Pelicanry in the Carnatic, where the Pelicans have (for ages I was told) built their rude nests, on rather low trees in the midst of a village, and seemed to care little for the close proximity of human beings." I saw just such a Pelicanry in a village in the North Circars, between Chicacole and Berhampore.